

### Overview

This lesson teaches students about some of the communities in Kansas. Students will learn about ten communities and will retell information about one of those communities. Then students will have an opportunity to learn more about their own community to compare to these. They will retell the information by creating an advertising poster for one community. This lesson is designed to take place over four days but can be adjusted to fit the teacher's needs.

### Standards

History:

Benchmark 2, Indicator 1 The student compares life in his/her community with another community (e.g., population/location, jobs, customs, history, natural resources, ethnic groups, local government).

Reading:

Benchmark 4, Indicator 10 The student retells main ideas or events as well as supporting details in narrative and expository text.

### Objectives

Content:

- The students will learn about specific communities across Kansas.

Skills:

- The students will compare and contrast communities across Kansas.
- The students will locate information about their own community.

### Essential Questions

- Where in Kansas is your community located?
- What makes your community special?
- How is your community similar and different from other Kansas communities?



## Activities

This activity uses the following *Read Kansas* cards:

- Atchison
- Atwood
- Chanute
- Dodge City
- Elkhart
- Junction City
- Overland Park
- Salina
- Sharon Springs
- Wichita

### Day 1

1. **Note: This lesson involves advanced preparation. You or your students will need to collect information about their community. Students will compare their community to the other communities highlighted in this lesson.**
2. Discuss with the class what a community is. Ask them to share information about their community. Use the **For the Teacher** materials to start the discussion.
3. Using the **Atchison** *Read Kansas* card, have the class read the card aloud as a group. Discuss what students can learn about the community of Atchison from reading the card. Discuss what students can learn about Atchison from the images on the card.
4. Use the **My Tour of Kansas** booklet and have students fill in the information they have learned about the community of Atchison from reading the *Read Kansas* card. They should include the following information:
  - in what region of the state is Atchison located
  - how many people were living there in 2000
  - three interesting things they learned about Atchison

### Day 2

1. Review with students what they learned about communities and about the community of Atchison.
2. Divide the class into nine groups. Give one of the community *Read Kansas* cards to each group. Have students in the group work together to read their card.
3. Provide one piece of poster-sized paper for each group. They are to create a poster to advertise the community they learned about in the *Read Kansas* card they were given. Remind students to include the same pieces of information in their posters that they recorded about the community of Atchison. If possible, students might want to extend their study to learn more about their assigned communities through internet research or by looking in the school library for more information.
4. When student groups have finished creating their posters, post them around the room.

### Day 3

1. Have students go around the room to read each advertising poster. Students will use their **My Tour of Kansas** booklet to record information they learn from each poster.

2. As a class review what information students recorded about each community in their **My Tour of Kansas** booklet. Do students want to know more about these communities? Where might students go to learn more about these communities?
3. Have students complete the **Where in Kansas?** map worksheet to identify each of the cities they have studied. Using this worksheet, discuss similarities and differences students see among the different regions of Kansas based on the communities they have studied from those regions and the information they recorded in their **My Tour of Kansas** booklet.

#### Day 4

1. Have students use the last page of the **My Tour of Kansas** booklet to record information about their community. They will use this information to compare their community to other communities the class has studied.
2. The teacher should select one community that was covered by one of the *Read Kansas* cards. It should be a community in a region other than your own. Have students use the **My Tour of Kansas** booklet to complete the **How do they compare?** graphic organizer and compare similarities and differences between the community you selected and their own.

#### Extended Activities:

1. Have students work in groups to research their own community and create advertising posters for their community.
2. Students also could write letters to Chambers of Commerce of other communities requesting promotional brochures or newspapers from those communities.

### Assessment

1. Evaluate the students' ability to create community posters.
2. Evaluate the students' ability to complete their **My Tour of Kansas** booklets and their **Where in Kansas?** map worksheets.
3. Evaluate the students' ability to compare and contrast communities on the **How do they compare?** graphic organizers.

### For the Teacher

The **My Tour of Kansas** booklet is designed to be copied on both sides of the page and folded to create a booklet.

What is a community? It is a place where people live and work. A community needs places for people to live. A community needs places for people to work. Rural communities usually have the most jobs for people who are in agriculture or ranching. Larger communities have many businesses where people work. Retail businesses are common in larger communities. Larger communities have service industries—places where people perform services for others, such as restaurants. Factories are more common in urban communities where many people live who can work in the factories. A small community will have fewer businesses. Sometimes people will need to travel to a larger community to buy the things they need such as food and clothes. A community needs places for people to go to school. A community also needs places for people to have fun.

The following questions can be used to start a discussion about communities in Kansas.

- Where do you live? Is your town in the east or west part of Kansas? Is it in the north or south part of Kansas? Is it near a river? How many people live in your community? Is it big? Is it small? What would someone want to know about your community if they plan to move there?
- One way to know about a community is to look at the schools there. How many schools are in your community?
- How old is your community? When was it first settled? Some communities in Kansas are more than 150 years old! Most are not that old.
- What do people in your community do for fun? Is there a museum in your community? Is there a library in your community?
- Where do people get news about your community? Is there a newspaper or radio or television station in your community?
- Is your community the home of a famous person? Did something exciting happen in your community in the past? What important things are happening there today?
- What is special about your community? What else do you want to know about your community?

For additional information available on the internet on cities and towns in Kansas, check [www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com) or [www.skyways.org](http://www.skyways.org).

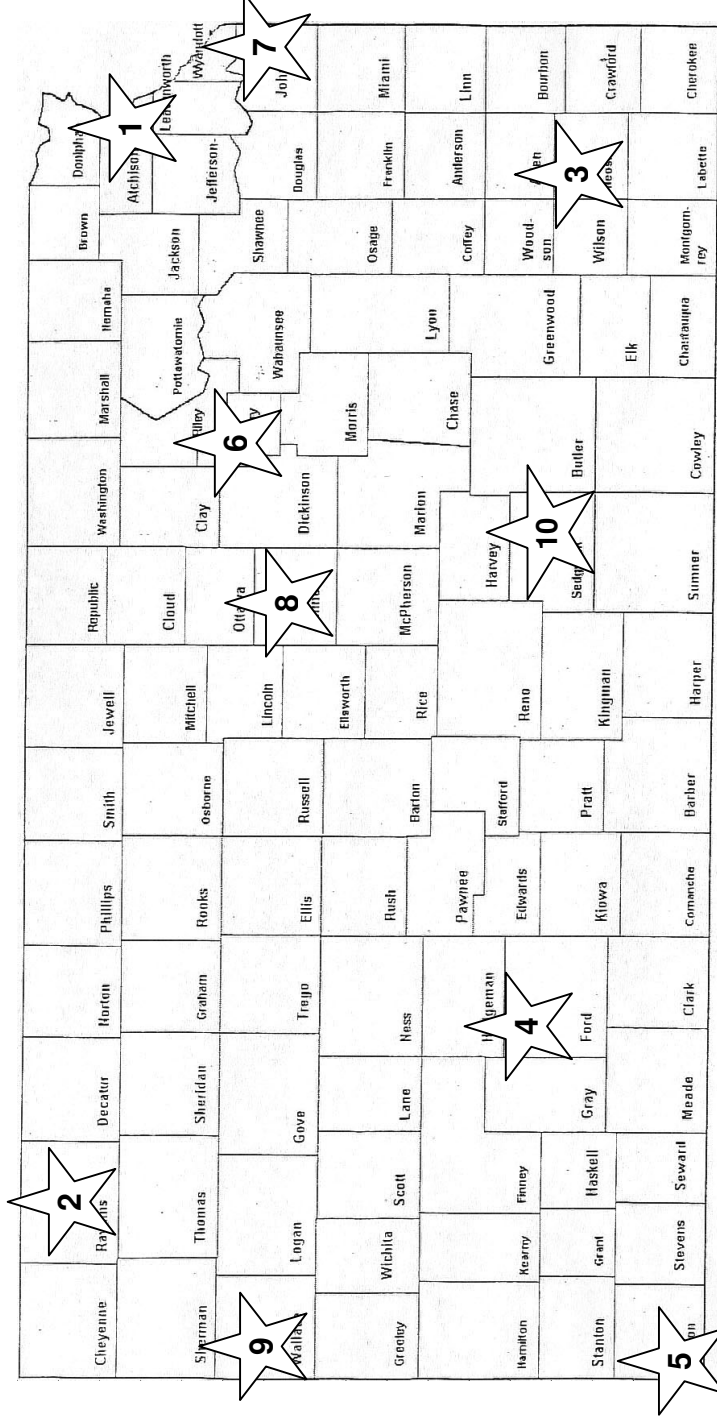
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Resources for this lesson are from:

- Kansas State Historical Society collections
- Harland Schuster, courtesy of the Atchison Convention and Visitors Bureau (Atchison front)
- Rawlins County Economic Development (Atwood front)
- Morton County Historical Museum (Elkhart front)
- Junction City Convention and Visitors Bureau (Junction City front)
- City of Overland Park (Overland Park front)
- Wallace County EDA (Sharon Springs front)
- Darren Decker, courtesy of the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Where in Kansas?



1

6

2

7

3

8

4

9

5

10

I live in:

My city is in the \_\_\_\_\_

region of Kansas. In 2000,

\_\_\_\_\_ people lived here.

Three interesting things I know  
about my city are:

1.

2.

3.

# My Tour of Kansas

by

\_\_\_\_\_

**Atchison**

Atchison is in the \_\_\_\_\_  
region of Kansas. In 2000,  
\_\_\_\_\_ people lived there.

Three interesting things I learned  
about Atchison are:

1.

2.

3.

**Wichita**

Wichita is in the \_\_\_\_\_  
region of Kansas. In 2000,  
\_\_\_\_\_ people lived there.

Three interesting things I learned  
about Wichita are:

1.

2.

3.

**Sharon Springs**

Sharon Springs is in the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ region of Kansas.

In 2000, \_\_\_\_\_ people lived

there. Three interesting things I

learned about Sharon Springs are:

1.

2.

3.

**Atwood**

Atwood is in the \_\_\_\_\_

region of Kansas. In 2000,

\_\_\_\_\_ people lived there.

Three interesting things I learned

about Atwood are:

1.

2.

3.



**Chanute**

Chanute is in the \_\_\_\_\_  
region of Kansas. In 2000,  
\_\_\_\_\_ people lived there.

Three interesting things I learned  
about Chanute are:

1.

2.

3.

**Salina**

Salina is in the \_\_\_\_\_  
region of Kansas. In 2000,  
\_\_\_\_\_ people lived there.

Three interesting things I learned  
about Salina are:

1.

2.

3.

**Overland Park**

Overland Park is in the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ region of Kansas.

In 2000, \_\_\_\_\_ people lived

there. Three interesting things I

learned about Overland Park are:

1.

2.

3.

**Dodge City**

Dodge City is in the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ region of Kansas.

In 2000, \_\_\_\_\_ people lived

there. Three interesting things I

learned about Dodge City are:

1.

2.

3.

**Elkhart**

Elkhart is in the \_\_\_\_\_  
region of Kansas. In 2000,

\_\_\_\_\_ people lived there.

Three interesting things I learned  
about Elkhart are:

1.

2.

3.

**Junction City**

Junction City is in the \_\_\_\_\_  
region of Kansas.

In 2000, \_\_\_\_\_ people lived  
there. Three interesting things I  
learned about Junction City are:

1.

2.

3.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## How do they compare?

My City:

Another City:

How are they alike?

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How are they different?

	Population	
	Region of Kansas	
	Industries and Jobs	
	High Schools	
	Places of Interest	

What have I learned as I compared my city with another?

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